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YOU GAME?
BOLD SPORTS PREDICTIONS FOR COMING YEARS
{page 21}

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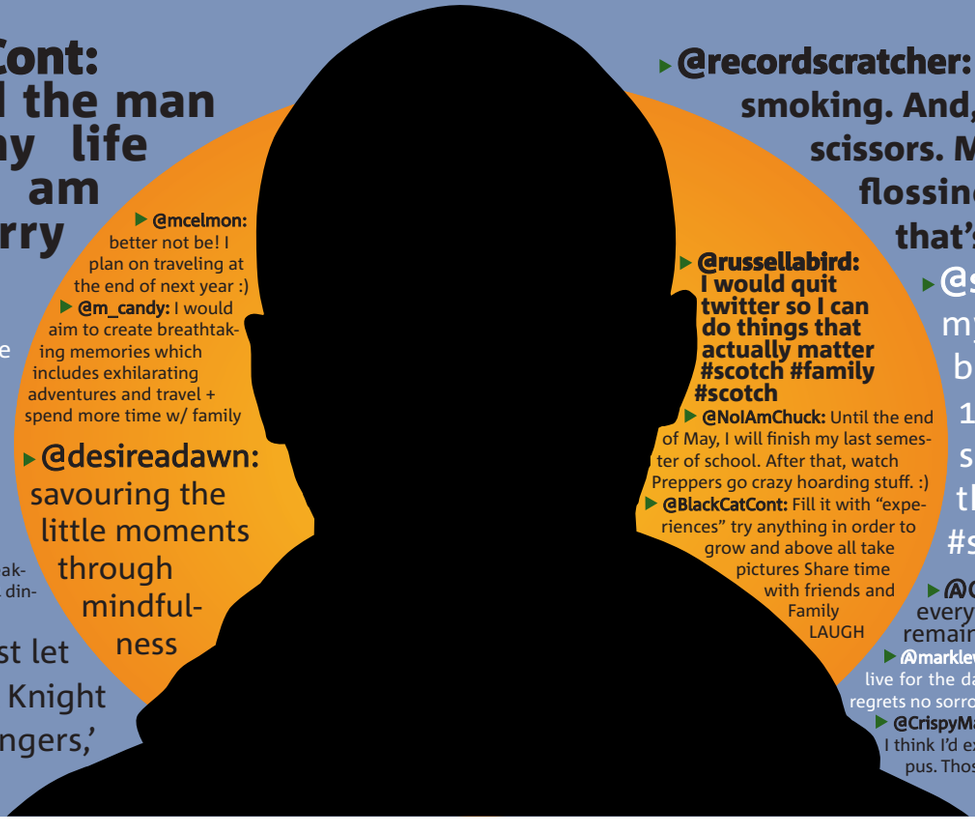
2012 If it's your last year on Earth, how will you live it?



▸ **@BlackCatCont:** Finally found the man to spend my life with so I am gonna Marry him!!

▸ **@kelseyhip:** Live to the fullest and on Dec. 31 dance around in my Christmas onesie, drinking red wine & waiting for the fireworks to begin

▸ **@nadiaadelle: I would spend as much time as possible with family and friends! And travel as often as I could!**

▸ **@gldngrl403:** omelette 4 breakfasts/burgers 4 lunches/indian food 4 dinners

▸ **@henteko_mai:** Just let me watch 'The Dark Knight Rises' and 'The Avengers,' then I'd be ok. :)

▸ **@mcelmon:** better not be! I plan on traveling at the end of next year :)

▸ **@m_candy:** I would aim to create breathtaking memories which includes exhilarating adventures and travel + spend more time w/ family

▸ **@desireadawn:** savouring the little moments through mindfulness

▸ **@recordscratcher: I think I'll start smoking. And, running with scissors. Maybe even start flossing my teeth, but, that's a lot to ask.**

▸ **@russellabird: I would quit twitter so I can do things that actually matter #scotch #family #scotch**

▸ **@NoIAmChuck:** Until the end of May, I will finish my last semester of school. After that, watch Preppers go crazy hoarding stuff. :)

▸ **@BlackCatCont:** Fill it with "experiences" try anything in order to grow and above all take pictures Share time with friends and Family LAUGH

▸ **@seanydoyle:** I blew my "end of days" budget back in 1999. My Netscape stock is still good though, right? #solidplan

▸ **@CitizenWilliams:** I would sell everything I own and live out my remaining days in Guam.

▸ **@marklewis2009:** No different than I do today, live for the day, live for love and live for life, no regrets no sorrow and no stress

▸ **@CrispyMario:** if 2012 was my last year to live I think I'd explore the ocean and catch an octopus. Those things are super smart. #KnowItAll

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End of the world, or a new era?

With just under a year to go to Dec. 21, 2012, experts say there's no reason to fear the end is nigh ◐ Mayan calendar doesn't mark the apocalypse, they say, but rather the end of a more than 5,000-year era

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN VANCOUVER

Doomsday is doomed.

So say experts, who want to dispel a widespread belief that the ancient Mayans predicted Dec. 21, 2012 to be the last day for all humankind.

Jaymie Matthews, an astronomer and astrophysicist at the University of B.C., said the date simply marks the end of a 5,126-year era in the "long count" Mayan calendar.

This calendar system records how many days have passed since Aug. 11, 3114 BC, the day believed to be the date of creation.

But the Mayans weren't warning future generations about an impending gloom and doom just because they didn't make any physical records of their calendar that went past the first long count, Matthews points out.

"Why would you ever make a calendar that starts on the second long count, which won't start for a couple thousand years after you were dead and buried?" he asks.

Matthews says it would take a Mayan astronomer at least 10 months to carve a calendar pattern on a huge piece of stone.

"There wasn't a point in making and going through the effort of making a calendar that would cover the second long count and would absolutely be of no use to anybody because nobody was going to be alive."

Justin Jennings, lead curator of the exhibition Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World at the Royal Ontario Museum, agrees that the Mayan calendar doesn't predict the end of the world but a transition into a new era.

"For the Maya, the idea was a cycle of time would end in December, but the next day a new cycle would begin," he says.

"(It's like) when you throw out your old calendar, it doesn't mean the world ends. You get a new one."

The source of the frenzy: The Mayan calendar

ISTOCK ILLUSTRATION

Matthews says if anything bad happens to the world, it's not going to be anything the Mayans foresaw.

"If something happens to the world on Dec. 21, 2012, it would be something we would do ourselves," he says.

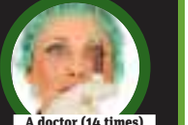
There isn't the slightest reason to be worried, Matthews adds, as this would have been the super party of all time for the Mayans.

1 news

Metro asked

If the world were ending, and we needed the best and brightest so humanity could survive, who would you save? Out of the 412 panelists who answered, here are the three most popular picks:

U.S. President Barack Obama (17 times)



A doctor (14 times)

The Dalai Lama (12 times)

Panel

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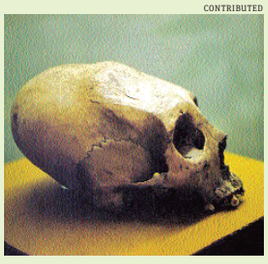
Mayan secrets revealed

Mayan people did not disappear ◗ There are 10 million Mayan people alive today ◗ Mayans communicated with their gods and ancestors to seek advice on decisions such as marriages, warfare, deaths and harvests

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN VANCOUVER

Justin Jennings, lead curator of the exhibition Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World at the Royal Ontario Museum, tells Metro why the Maya civilization is one of the most impressive in human history and sheds light on some of the most widespread myths about the ancient Maya.

CONTRIBUTED



BEAUTY

The ancient Mayans went to extreme lengths to transform their bodies through tattooing, face painting and body piercing. They did cranial modification where they wrapped up and tied boards to the heads of newborn babies to reshape the skull. They also filed their teeth.

CONTRIBUTED

CHOCOLATE

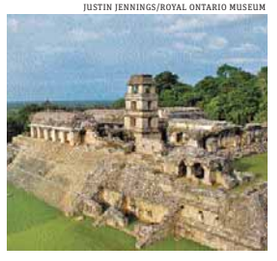
The cacao plant is from the part of the world where the Mayans lived — Mexico and parts of South America. It was an elite drink and only few people could get the chocolate. The nobles drank a mix of chocolate, corn and water, sometimes with chili. Instead of a sweet drink, it would be bitter, spicy and foamy, like a cappuccino.

JORGE PEREZ DE LARA/ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

BLOODLETTING

Piercing the skin and allowing the blood to flow was carried out to communicate with gods and ancestors for advice. They would prick the skin with a stingray spine, bone or rock and collect the blood in a pot with cotton cloth and burn it. A vision serpent would appear in the flames.

JUSTIN JENNINGS/ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM



MISCONCEPTIONS

Maya culture is not dead. There are 10 million Mayan people today. Many of their city-states and the idea of the sacred rulers that organized these cities died out. Maya is not an empire. It was never unified by a single governing body, but made up of numerous independent city-states with a common culture.

If only there were an undo button on life

It's so hard to get it right when it comes to love and money.

The two were at the top of people's do-over lists when Metro asked members of the Metropolitan Panel to assume that the world is ending and to choose one thing they'd like another crack at.

Apparently, one panelist would like to "crack" her husband.

"I would never marry the a**hole I've been married to for the past 22 years! God, how I hate his guts."

Aside from choice of partner, people also regretted the timing of their marriage.

"Not marry so young and finish college," one panelist wrote.

"I wouldn't have gotten married at 18, would have finished school and been a paralegal," said another.

Yet, many of the 382 respondents said they wish they hadn't waited so long.

"Realize my husband was the one for me many years sooner," one anonymous participant said.

Money was the other popular do-over choice.

"Spend less and save more, at least 10 per cent of every paycheque. No excuses," one person said.

For every saver, there was a spender.

"Spend every penny I have and have a blast!"

Either way, the smartest answer was probably this one: "Buy shares in Apple and Google."

Speaking of smarts, a number of respondents said they'd like the chance to go back to school. Some said they like their career chioce, but wish it paid more. Others said they hate what they do, but the money is so nice.

And while a number of people said they would have had more sex, 33 said thanks, but no thanks to change. They're happy with the choices they've made.

"All the tough stuff has made me into the person I am today," one person said.

"Every poor choice and failure is an opportunity to learn and grow," another added. FERNANDO CARNEIRO

To join the panel, visit metropolitanpanel.ca

Survey do-overs

- I never would have plucked my eyebrows to the point of extinction.
- (I would) come back as Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- Marry Tom Brady.
- I wouldn't have kissed that guy Halloween 2010. It nearly ruined my relationship and because of it my husband is no longer friends with someone he was close to.

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Top 5 places to await the apocalypse

Some would relax at a park, others would hunker down in the city hall basement Just accept death, says prof

SEAN LEDWICH
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

Harold Camping's two end-of-world predictions in 2011 were a bust, but maybe there's hope for the screwball yet.

Some believe the Mayan calendar has penciled in Dec. 21, 2012 for Armageddon.

Assuming the crazies are right this time, we asked some prominent Winnipeggers where they would go to await the end.

Mayor Sam Katz:

Our mayor chose a building constructed at the height of the cold war, saying he would hole up "in the basement of city hall with my loved ones and all city councillors. It's a very solid building."

Gordon Giesbrecht:

The U of M's "Professor Popsicle" rejected the idea of surviving. He said if the world is ending, "the take-home message" is we're going to die. So, he just wants a good view. The revolving restaurant (closed) or the observation deck of the Richardson Building (no longer exists).

Ace Burpee:

Hot 103's celebrity morning show host would hang out at Westview Park, a.k.a. Garbage Hill. "That place is awesome!" And he'd like to have his good friend with him, Winnipegger, adventurer extraordinaire and author Don Starkell, "the toughest guy of all time."

Sean Kavanagh:

The hardy CBC reporter wants beer and ambiance. "The Royal Albert Arms Hotel, but it's been closed for some time, so, that's probably a bigger stretch than the end of the world."

Randy Hull:

Winnipeg's emergency preparedness co-ordinator said the end times would likely find him at the Emergency Operations Centre at city hall, where they are poised to deal with any disaster.

Epic travel and sex with strangers ... now guilt-free!

Travel seems to be the No. 1 item on most people's bucket lists, according to a Metropolitan Panel survey.

Of the 361 respondents, 98 said they would like to go on one last epic trip before time runs out.

"See the seven or eight Wonders of the World, and go visit the country where I was born," one panelist responded.

"Spend all my savings on a super vacation," another said.

Some were very specific. One wants to ride a Harley motorcycle across the Confederation Bridge, while another wants to go to the Playboy Mansion.

Which brings us to "more sex" — another popular answer.

And in the case of one panelist, not just any sex will do. It'll have to be "kinky sexual relations." Of note, "sex with a stranger" made the list five times.

And while a lot of people want to try scuba diving and sky diving at least once, many respondents said it doesn't matter how they spend their last year on Earth as long as it's with family.

FERNANDO CARNEIRO

FLICKR.COM/OLLIE CRAFOORD

▶ About 27 per cent of Metro's survey respondents said they would go on one last trip before time runs out.

Cats and dogs

Random bucket-list items from the Metropolitan Panel survey:

- **Eat a meaty pizza.** "I'm a vegetarian. If I'm going, I might as well take a bunch of animals with me."
- **Meet an alien.**
- **Find my dog that was taken away from me.**
- **Go to an opera, in full formal, with my husband.**
- **Spend plenty of time with my cat.**

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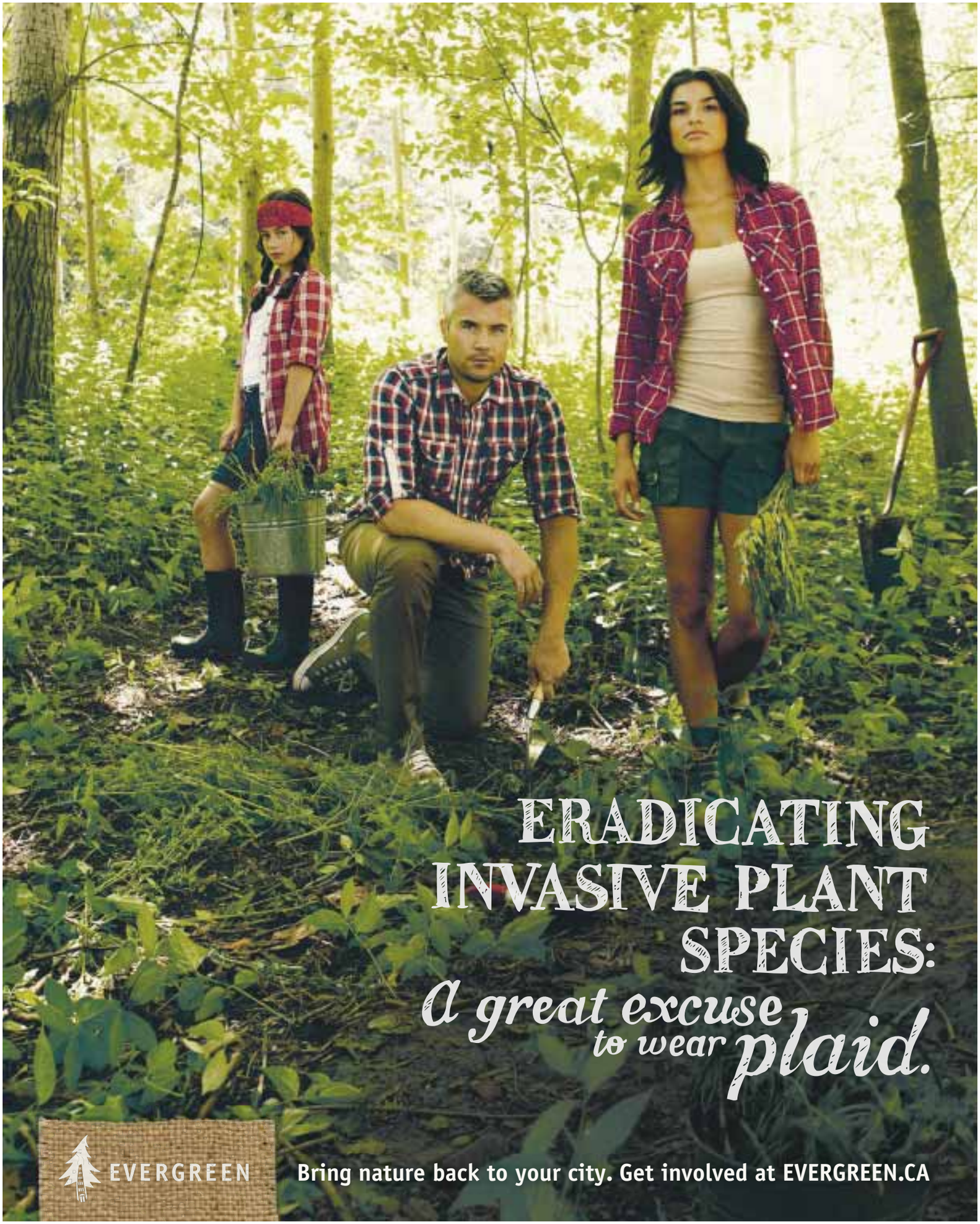
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NEVER MIND THE ZOTZ, FOLKS: THIS IS NOT THE END

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

Another year, another year-end story. Yawn.

However: If you believe hundreds of books and 1,000-plus websites and blogs this will be the last year-end ever. Nothing boring about that.

The end really is near, they say. Dec. 21, 2012, to be precise. That's the day the Mayan "long count" calendar ends, and as the calendar outlasted the civilization, there are no Mayan calendar guys around to tell us what that means.

That hasn't prevented a parade of self-declared Mayan calendar experts from speculating that the world will end on that day, just shy of a year from now. For example, the movie 2012 featured a killer solar flare, a biblical flood, a really bad script and wooden performances. Scary.

That's the glass half-empty crowd. The half-full gang, starring people like bestselling really bad writer William Gladstone, author of The Twelve, prefer the New Age interpretation. "Greed and materialism will have a lesser role in this new era. There will be a greater emphasis on harmony among all living beings."

If you use that Prophety voice, it sounds more convincing.

There's more. For the first time in 26,000 years the centre of the Milky Way (our home galaxy) and our sun will be in alignment. How cool is that? Not to mention the fact that Dec. 21 is the winter solstice and witchy stuff happens on the solstice.

Finally, that glyph of a Porky Pig-like character on the calendar, going what appears to be "Duh-beeya-duhbeeya-duhbeeya that's all, folks" in Mayan is somewhat troubling.

JOSHUA TRUJILLO/SEATTLEPI.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Local atheists gathered at Dorky's Arcade in Tacoma, Wash., on May 21, 2011, the day that radio minister Harold Camping had predicted would be the beginning of the rapture.

Just kidding about the pig.

After extensive research (er, Google), I can authoritatively declare it's all a bunch of "zotz," which is Mayan for "bats," which is as close as I can get to "crazy."

The world will not end on Dec. 21 2012, say the usual humourless scientists from NASA, et cetera, any more than it will end on Dec. 31, 2011. Plus there's no way the Mayan astronomers could have known about that alignment of the sun and the galaxy thing. It's just a calendar, people. Get a life.

Before we go (but not for good!) let's raise a New Year's glass to Harold Camping, who, using his own zotz calendar, predicted the world would end on May 21, 2011, and when that didn't work, went all out for Oct. 21, 2011. That didn't work either, probably because he ignored the significance of the solstice, the equinox and reality in general.

Still, you never know. But to leave you on an upbeat note, John Cusack, the star of 2012, when asked what he would be doing on Dec. 21, 2012, replied: "Skiing."

Nothing zotz about him.

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PROBE RESEARCH INC

The new year, by the numbers

The world we know now will be changed forever, and numerology predicts 2012 will make it a better place

What is numerology?
Numbers have relationships with all things in nature, making them powerful symbolic expressions. Numerology is used to predict life, and the circumstances that surround it. It is often used to interpret a person's talents, traits and overall character throughout their destiny.

When one begins to understand the formula used behind numerology, they begin to unlock the deepest secrets in their life and quite possibly in the lives of others.

2012: 5 positives

1. Taking the initiative to create friendships
2. Love connections
3. Reconciliation
4. Mental/emotional balance
5. Expression of self

2012: 5 negatives

1. Challenges
2. Overreacting
3. Heightened sensitivity
4. Self-centredness
5. Controlling

Breaking down the digits
One important thing to remember when using numerology is that the numerical digits need to be broken down to a single digit in order to decipher the predictable outcome of what you are seeking.

For example, take the year 2012. Broken down it equals 2+0+1+2 = 5.

So, the influence for the year 2012 will be based upon the expression of the number five.

The power of five
Five itself has a powerful meaning — full of wild primitive adventure and unexpected exciting events.

The number five influence enhances freewill and self-expression. This means that during 2012, individuals will be living life their way. People who have been putting off projects, important decisions, loved ones or even a vacation will now make the time to accomplish the things that are overdue.

While seeking their highest goals and chasing their dearest dreams, as they bounce from one unique experience to the next, during 2012 most people will freely share their emotions and thoughts with the world. With this number-five influence, many people in the world will desire to use social outlets, ultimately as a tool to connect with the world.

Money-wise
Folks will take finances to a more serious level, and

although they may not save as much money as they would like to, eventually their spending habits will change, and wiser choices will be made regarding their budget. People will start to get stingy with their cash, spending on only the best deal ... but the competition will be good for business and the consumer will benefit.

Lessons to be learned
Yes, the year 2012 will be somewhat unpredictable with all the frequent changes that five imposes, but 2012 will be a memorable year, packed with valuable lessons which people will learn to live by.

The world is not ending, but it is becoming a better place.

CERISE FAIRFAX (NUMEROLOGIST)

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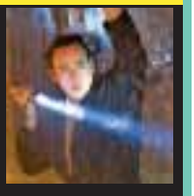
2 scene

Armageddon at the box office



Filmmakers seem just as obsessed with the end of the world as the ancient Mayans were. It almost seems Hollywood could make post-apocalyptic movies until the end of the world comes for real. This week the Reel Guys have a look at our world ceasing to exist.

Scan this code or visit metronews.ca/scene for the latest in entertainment

SUBMITTED

▶ From left: Cillian Murphy in 28 Days Later; John Cusack in 2012.

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

End of times in film

Hollywood loves a good apocalypse

Here are some watchable worst-case scenarios

Richard: Mark, there are so many end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it movies out there it's hard to narrow it down, but I'll start our look at the end with Last Night. It's a dramedy about how people react in the hours before the destruction of the planet. My favourite part has David Cronenberg, in a rare appearance in front of the camera, as a utility company boss spending his final moments calling all his clients to offer thanks for their business.

Mark: Oh, Richard, I hated that movie. I found it twee and precious. Maybe I'm just an old-fashioned guy when it comes to the end of the world, but I want to see landmarks crumbling, a body count in the billions, explosions, tidal waves, and most importantly, a dad separated from his estranged wife and child who saves them, and his relationship. So, I liked 2012, even though I suspect the Mayans were numerically challenged. But I think it's important to differentiate between a natural apocalypse and one caused by alien invasion. Which do you – ahem – prefer?

RC: I'm more of a good old-fashioned apocalypse guy, although I'm also partial to super-plagues as well. At least on film. Omega Man, 28 Days Later and 12 Monkeys all have crazy viruses with the potential to wipe out mankind. One of the best epidemic movies is The Stand. It was made for TV, but doesn't skimp on the apocalyptica.

MB: Let me reverse my stand on my desire to see big special effects in these films. The Road is one of the scariest, most haunting movies about trying to survive an apocalypse I've ever seen. But then again, Independence Day has the White House blowin' up real good! I think there's an interesting double bill here, with two widely different takes on the topic.

RC: I have to say that one of the best apocalyptic movies didn't have anything to do with aliens or killer planets but with a very simple idea — mass infertility. There's few special effects and the White House is probably still standing at the end. It's more about great storytelling and a thought provoking idea.

MB: Children of Men? Brilliant. But when I was a little boy I saw On the Beach, set in Australia after a nuclear holocaust. Not one special effect, but I cried myself to sleep for months.

Top three

Richard's Picks:

1. On the Beach A dystopian drama starring Gregory Peck that set the date for the end of the world just after World War III in 1964.

2. Panic in Year Zero! Begins with one of filmdom's great understatements. "We've had it, haven't we dad?" as a mushroom cloud rises in the background.

3. Rock & Rule is an animation set on a devastated planet where a rock star tries to rule the world.

Mark's Picks

1. Miracle Mile Real-time panic as our hero frantically searches for his girlfriend in L.A. before the bombs drop.

2. The Day After Made for TV, a hyper-realistic look at Lawrence, Kansas after it's hit by a nuke.

3. I Am Legend Will Smith is great in the Charlton Heston role in Omega Man.

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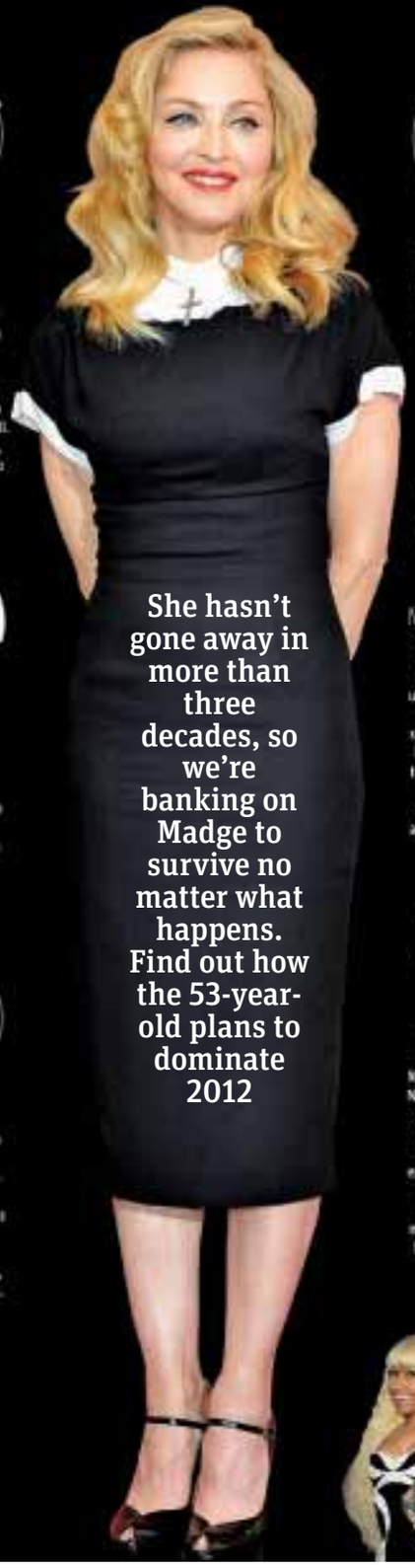
100% Madonna's COMEBACK



She hasn't gone away in more than three decades, so we're banking on Madge to survive no matter what happens. Find out how the 53-year-old plans to dominate 2012

20%

A NEW MOVIE
Screened at the Venice Film Festival, "W.E." follows a romantic researcher in the 1990s (Abbie Cornish) delving into the life of Wallis Simpson (Andrea Riseborough), the American divorcee who charmed King Edward VIII. We see both lives lived, though you may want to see none of it: Reviews have been mixed.

30%

NEW GIG
In January, she headlines the halftime show at the Super Bowl, in a performance conceived by the always-understated Cirque Du Soleil. Will come less play to mainstream America?

1%

MADONNA-NESS
Somewhere—possibly hidden in the gap between her teeth, or underneath the Kabbalah bracelet—there lies a spirit animal (a Patronus, if you will) that ensures the Material Girl will live forever. The "actual" Madonna died 20 years ago, according to legend.

30%

A NEW ALBUM
Set for spring, the disc's first singles should be dropping soon. Will it be back to basics, or techno-infused, or or or...for a hint, she's hired some...

10%

NEW FRIENDS
To court younger fans, Madonna has filmed rappin' Nicki Minaj and Sri Lankan superstar M.I.A. on the track "Give Me All Your Love." Minaj, for one, is excited, tweeting: "OH MY f'ingggg Gahhhh!!!!! MADONNA jus kissed me!!!!! On the lips!!!!!! It felt sooooo good. Soooo soft!!!! *passes out* aaahhhhh!!!!!!!!"

9%

NEW SCENT
Not does Madonna smell like? Find out: Her new "expression of me," a perfume called Truth or Dare, is due this year. The scent shares a name with her fashion line, which is still in stores.

GETTY IMAGES

The new music stars

▶ King Krule

Escaping the apocalypse? Take some 2012 sounds with you

1 The Dø
Both Ways Open Jaws, the sophomore album by the French duo The Dø, instantly feels classic and contemporary. It is celebratory and it is agitated; it is majestic and it is raw; it is artsy and it is poppy. Basically, it sounds the way you'd expect Lady Gaga to sound if you had only ever seen photos of her.

2 King Krule
If you didn't know that Archy Marshall was a fresh-faced 17-year-old, and you heard his patient beats, sophisticated guitar chords, moody words and his low London voice, you might think he was in his 30s and possibly was the type of character who accompanied Pete Doherty through every stint in rehab. But luckily for us, Marshall has many years ahead of him.

3 Azealia Banks
Imagine if Rihanna really was into sex as much as she sings about. And if Nicki Minaj was into Interpol! Then you might have an idea of the hot, hilarious awesomeness that is the 20-year-old Harlem native Azealia Banks.

4 Michael Kiwanuka
His Tell Me a Tale, sounds at first like a forgotten tune from the 1970s, but once he gets to the chorus you'll know that not only is this a song of the new decade, but it is one that will not be forgotten. PAT HEALY

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We asked our Metro Life Panel which celebrity they would want to spend their last 24 hours on earth with
Some answers were predictable — Pamela Anderson — and others took us by surprise (your mom? Really?)

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Your last Date night

▶ Angelina Jolie

▶Leonardo DiCaprio

▶ The Dalai Lama

▶ Brad Pitt

▶ Oprah Winfrey

▶ Ryan Reynolds

Who else?

- **Chuck Norris** If anyone's going to make it through the apocalypse, it's Chuck.
- **Dr. Oz** He'd know just what to do and say to make "everything right."
- **Ellen DeGeneres** I wanna go out laughing and happy.
- **Jann Arden** I'd love to sit and drink wine with her and hear her talk.
- **Keanu Reeves** He's boring enough that I would nod off first.
- **Leonard Cohen** He seems like an interesting man with an interesting mind.

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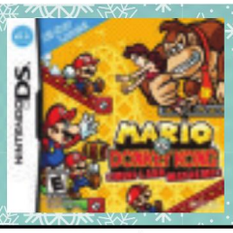

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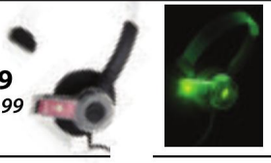
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Is that your final answer?

It may not be the end of the world ... yet, but we asked a few celebrities what they'd do if it was

WIZ KHALIFA
RAPPER

What is the last song you'll sing in the shower?
Save The Children by Marvin Gaye

What is the last movie you'll watch and with whom?
The Notebook with Amber.

What is the one luxury item you'll bring with you to the New World?
My laptop.

Who is the one fellow celebrity with whom you'll want to travel to the New World?
Amber Rose.

PAT HEALY

JAMIE BELL
ACTOR

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

What is your last meal?
It would definitely be a meat dish. I love meat. It's so bad, but damn, it's pretty good. Maybe just cook a whole cow. Actually, probably a steak au poivre or steak frites.

What is the last song you'll sing in the shower?
Maybe Let it Be. Maybe a Pink Floyd song? Or you could go out on something completely ironic like Always Look on the Bright Side of Life.

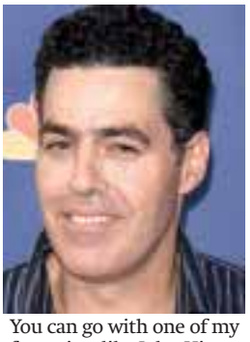
What is the last movie you'll watch?
I would love to say something that was really influential, about the goodness of humanity, but it would probably be Jurassic Park, honestly.

What is the one luxury item you'll bring with you to the New World?
The Complete Works of Shakespeare.

Who is the one fellow celebrity with whom you'll want to travel to the New World?
Andy Serkis, for sure. I love that man. I genuinely love him.

RICHARD CROUSE

ADAM CAROLLA
COMEDIAN



What is your last meal?
I'd go to the busiest restaurant, whose kitchen was most backed up and then I would change my order three or four times. I'd stretch it out. I'd eat lobsters raised on Snickers bars then dipped in a buttermilk substance mixed with tempura sauce and then deep-fried. With heroin sprinkled on it.

What is the last song you'll sing in the shower?
You can go with one of my favourites like John Hiatt or Elvis Costello and hear something you really want to hear. Or, a better approach would be to take a horrible song like Maneater by Hall and Oates and want to die.

What is the last movie you'll watch and with whom?
I would pick a long movie. I'd watch Goodfellas with Joe Pesci and make sure he got drunk and have him reenact his scenes. I'd have Ray Liotta there too and make them do their crazy laughs for me.

What is the one luxury item you'll bring with you to the New World?
Wait a minute; you can't transport items. You're dead.

Who is the one fellow celebrity with whom you'll want to travel to the New World?
The world is ending. That's it. You're done.

PAT HEALY

MINDY KALING
WRITER, PRODUCER, ACTRESS

What would your last meal be?
My last meal would probably be Ethiopian food, my favourite kind of food ... it's super heavy and I love it.

What would the last song you'd sing in the shower be?
Countdown by Beyoncé.

What is the last movie you'd watch and with whom?
The last movie I would watch would be You've Got Mail and I'd watch it with my mom.

What's one luxury item you'd bring with you to the new world?
In the post apocalyptical world where it's like Cormac McCarthy's The Road and everyone is dirty and disgusting, I'd bring a Judith Lieber clutch, like in my rags.

One celebrity you'd want to travel with to the new world?
Aaron Sorkin

PAT HEALY

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The 2012 tech trends

If the Terminator series proves right (and who doubts it?) technology may not be our friend for much longer, so embrace it now Here's our look into the near future (no hoverboards, yet) As ever, fighting games rule

6 Theft Auto V

This is going to be huge. Like, Avatar-huge: The last Grand Theft Auto was the biggest video game launch of its time, and overall, the series has moved more than 124 million copies. V is set in a warped version of Los Angeles, called Los Santos, and stars a family man pulled back into a world of crime. Horrific crime. Previous installments have been blamed for inciting real-life violence. Expect at least a mob … at the video game store. No release date yet.

Winnipeg

WINNIPEG TRANSIT 2012 FARES
In effect January 1, 2012

Winnipeg Transit

New Transit and Handi-Transit fares will be in effect January 1, 2012. Winnipeg Transit continues to offer REDUCED fares to seniors (65+) and qualifying students. Winnipeg Transit would like to remind all customers that tickets provide substantial savings compared to cash fares. For even greater savings and convenience, consider buying a weekly or monthly bus pass. Monthly and weekly pass customers enjoy unlimited travel plus are eligible to receive a 15% Federal Government Transit Tax Credit. Tickets and passes are sold at over 140 retail outlets throughout the city - check the Transit Guide in the MTS Yellow Pages or winnipegtransit.com for locations.

2012 FARES	FULL[1]	REDUCED[2]	SENIORS[3]	HANDI-TRANSIT
Cash	$2.45	$1.95	$1.95	$2.45
Ticket	$2.15	$1.46	$1.08	$2.15
Max 5 (5 day pass valid Mon-Fri)	$19.00			
SuperPass (7 day pass valid Mon-Sun)	$21.50	$14.60	$10.75	
Monthly Pass	$77.00	$52.10	$38.50	$77.00
Post Secondary Pass[4]	$61.60			$61.60

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Tickets

- Available in strips of 5 or 10 at all retail outlets.
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- Old tickets can be exchanged (with correct cash difference) at the following outlets;

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Winnipeg Transit Service Centre
Unit B-414 Osborne Street
8:30 am – 4:30 pm)

For complete transit fare information, visit winnipegtransit.com or call 311.

Wii U

The original Wii — with joysticks that looked like nunchucks and family-friendly titles — brought Nintendo back to the forefront of gaming, although the Xbox Kinect (no joystick required) later stole the spotlight. The Wii U does require a controller — but it's got a touch screen, which means games can be played on the television or in your hand. Revolutionary, or too complicated? Find out while playing LEGO City Stories or a new Pimkin. No release date yet.

Windows 8: Touch

The touch screen revolution comes to the PC, as Microsoft's rumored new OS will support finger-clicking icons.

The company could use the buzz.

In the cool wars, they've lost to Apple for decades.

Mass Effect 3

An intergalactic combat game, Mass Effect has never had the cachet of Call of Duty — in other words, dads haven't heard of it. But it's a big deal to gamers. The final chapter continues Commander Shepard's battle against the evil Reaers. Released March 9. SAM CASTONE

Playstation Vita

Could this be the iPhone killer? With 3G mobile support and social networking capability, the Vita (means "life" in Latin) is more than a portable video game player. But it is that too: titles such as Uncharted: Golden Abyss and Call of Duty will be available near launch. Some can be played via touch screen. Released in Europe and North America in February.

5 survival skills your mother didn't teach you

It's the end of days, you're alone and you're going to need a few skills to survive Here's what you need to know to cope with an apocalypse

ELISHA DACEY
METRO WINNIPEG

JENNA CUMBERS/METRO WINNIPEG

▶ Bored during the apocalypse? Teach yourself to paint.

How to sew a button

Tools: needle, thread, scissors

Put the thread into the eye of the needle. (Tip: Lick the end of the thread to give it some strength.) Pull the thread through the needle until there is an equal length of thread on both sides. Tie the ends together in a big knot. Now position the button on the fabric. Push the needle up through the fabric, behind the button, and up through the button hole. Pull the thread all the way through. Push the needle through a different hole in the button and pull the thread through. Repeat several times until the button is secure. On the backside of the fabric, run the needle through your awkward stitching several times to tie off the thread.

How to cut down a tree

Tools: chainsaw, rope, ladder

Use the ladder to tie a rope to the top of the tree, or as high as you can get it. Cut a notch (with the chainsaw, duh) that goes more than halfway through the tree, on the side of the tree you want it to fall on. Then cut downward on the other side, toward the notch you just created. When you get close to the notch, it should start to fall. If it doesn't, pull the rope. Carefully. If it does start to fall, get out of the way, as the butt of the tree can kick back and smack you.

How to de-bone a fish

Tools: sharp knife, tweezers

Place clean fish on its side. Cut the fish just behind the gill plate until the blade hits the fish's backbone. Make sure your knife is flat and parallel to the cutting surface. Slice down the length of the backbone right to the tail. Repeat on the other side. Remove the backbone. Then slice between the rib bones into the meat of the fish and pull the bones out. Use tweezers to clasp onto the remaining bones and pull them out. Note: Do not later use these tweezers for your eyebrows.

How to start a fire using ice

Tools: foil, clear water, knife

Shape a piece of foil into a bowl. Fill it with about 5 cm of water. Wait for it to freeze. Make a nest of tinder for later. Using a pocket knife, shape the ice into a lens shape. (Remember, lenses are thicker in the middle and narrower around the edges.) Polish your lens with your bare hands (the heat will help the lens become nice and smooth). Angle the lens toward the sun and focus the light on the tinder nest. Be patient…. Fire!

How to be alone

Chances are, you're by yourself. How do you not go crazy until you find other people? Some suggestions: Write a story or some poetry. Learn something new, like guitar. There must be plenty of guitars and Guitar for Dummies books around. Read. There will be other books near the guitar book. Listen to music, assuming there's electricity. Sing, dance, paint, do puzzles. Keeping your mind occupied is key.

3 life

Winter storms

Here's what to do during a power outage:
- Turn off appliances to avoid a power surge when power is restored.
- Do not touch electrical wires, appliances or devices.
- Check for gas leaks and turn the valves off if you find one.
- Prepare an inventory of what has been lost or damaged.

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You, 12 months from now

In one year's time, we'll have become more 'sharing and caring,' the world's top trend-spotters tell Metro
We'll share songs, docs and files without owning them, and we'll care more about where our food comes from

ANTHONY JOHNSTON
METRO WORLD NEWS

Computing on the cloud, holidaying on a farm and interacting with talking billboards are among the top things we'll be doing in 2012, the world's leading trends potters tell Metro.

"The new year will be a portrait of contrasts — great new techno-breakthroughs and a rush toward embracing anything local, including crafts and foods," says Marian Salzman, president of Euro RSCG Worldwide PR.

Surfin' in the 'cloud'

Cloud computing will be the most talked-about trend over the next year.

"Twelve months from now, most people under 40 will be logging into a virtual file cabinet to pick up your work assignment or your shopping list," Salzman tells Metro.

"There are obvious privacy issues that come with that," says Ann Mack, director of trend-spotting at global advertising agency JWT. "But overall, people are moving toward 'access over ownership.' Already you can access any song you like online without actually owning it."

Shop ethical: There's an app for that

Ethical shopping is set to rise, according to Salzman, with more and more people concerned about how their food products are sourced — and they're investigating with their smartphones.

One smartphone app — GoodGuide — allows shoppers to scan a product with their phone camera and find out how ethically responsible the food company behind the product is.

"Into the new year, our smartphone will increasingly become our companion to what kind of cheese we'll buy; we can find out if it was made in that trustworthy farm," Salzman says.

The futurologist believes an overall citizen-led drive to target corporate responsibility is behind this. "On a macro level, it's due to the general malaise in society that's still around today. Wanting a sense of control in this chaos is a personal trigger," Salzman adds.

But we won't just be acting ethical in the supermarket aisles. Salzman predicts a rise in eco-tourism and spending vacation time volunteering at farms over the next year.

"Don't be surprised if families take their urban/suburban gardens one step further by going on 'farmcations,'" she says. "Think staying at sustainable farms where families can learn to grow their own foods in a nod to 2012 survivalist fervor and to the need to know what they're eating and to pay less for healthy food."

Say hi to a billboard

Our lives will revolve even more than they already do around touchpad devices, whether it's ordering in a restaurant or shopping in a department store.

Barney's department store in New York already boasts restaurant tables fitted with touchscreens; diners can digitally order their meal, then browse the store's catalogue.

And we'll be "talking" to billboards, too: "Siri and other voice recognition devices are a big hitter now, but as people will get used to this phenomenon, we could be interacting with a talking billboard," Mack told Metro.

"Already in Japan, they have billboards that can detect with 90 per cent accuracy whether the passer-by is male or female, and then serve up an ad accordingly.

"Some people will say this is all straight out of [futuristic sci-fi movie] Minority Report, but in reality this is going to happen."

Other trends

- **Eco-cycology.** We're seeking a more sustainable lifestyle — and we want the same from the brands we buy. Already Nike and Dell have programs where they take back old items from customers and recycle the material to use in new products.
- **Depression-era chic.** Perhaps as a nod to our economic climate, designers, from Gucci to Roberto Cavalli, showed swingy flapper dresses, complete with drop waists, deco touches and Zelda Fitzgerald as a muse.
- **Trading in.** With wage freezes we all need some ways to get a bit of extra cash. 'Recommerce' is the new buying where tech-savvy consumers are re-selling or trading in old buys. Across the world, companies are already offering trade-in programs.

2012 trend: flapper dress

SOURCES: MARIAN SALZMAN, TRENDWATCHING.COM

MIA KORAB/METRO WORLD NEWS

You might vacation on a sustainable farm.
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Get creative with canned food

Whether you like buying in bulk or you're preparing for a disaster, you likely have a stash of canned goods gathering dust in your pantry Emily Richards explains how to turn those staples into easy, tasty meals

ALL PHOTOS BY EMILY RICHARDS

Drink of the week

Hot Chocolate Mix

- 1 cup (250 mL) instant skim milk powder
- ⅔ cup (150 mL) granulated sugar
- ½ cup (125 mL) unsweetened cocoa powder

In jar, stir together milk powder, sugar and cocoa powder until well combined. Store for up to 2 months. When ready to make 1 mug of hot chocolate, bring about 1 cup (250 mL) of water to boil and whisk in 1/4 cup (60 mL) of the hot chocolate mix until smooth.

EMILY RICHARDS

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

The flavour and spice level in this one-pot meal will knock your socks off!

If you're not a fan of heat and spice, simply use half the package of paste. To change up the flavour, look for other paste or sauce packages such as peanut sauce for a Thai-inspired dish.

Ingredients:

- 1 can (540 mL/19 oz) cooked diced potatoes, drained well
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 2 tsp (10 mL) dried parsley leaves
- 1 tsp (5 mL) dried thyme leaves
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) cayenne
- 1 can (398 mL/14 oz) creamed corn
- 1 can (370 mL) 2% evaporated milk
- 1 can (284 mL/10 oz) vegetable broth
- 1 ¼ cups (300 mL) water

Preparation:

1. In saucepan, heat oil over medium heat and cook onion for about 3 minutes or until softened. Stir in paste and rice until well coated. Add water; bring to the boil.
2. Cover and reduce heat to low and cook for about 10 minutes or until water is absorbed and rice is fluffy. Stir in vegetables, tuna and parsley and let stand, covered, for 5 minutes before serving.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

▶ This recipe makes six 1 cup (250 mL) servings.

Warm up with this hearty potato corn chowder soup

You can put together a simple soup — like this potato corn chowder — in minutes. And, if you happen to have some additional canned goods in your pantry, you can add smoked oysters, shrimp or even crab to the mix. To spice things up, add a few dashes of hot sauce into your bowl.

Ingredients:

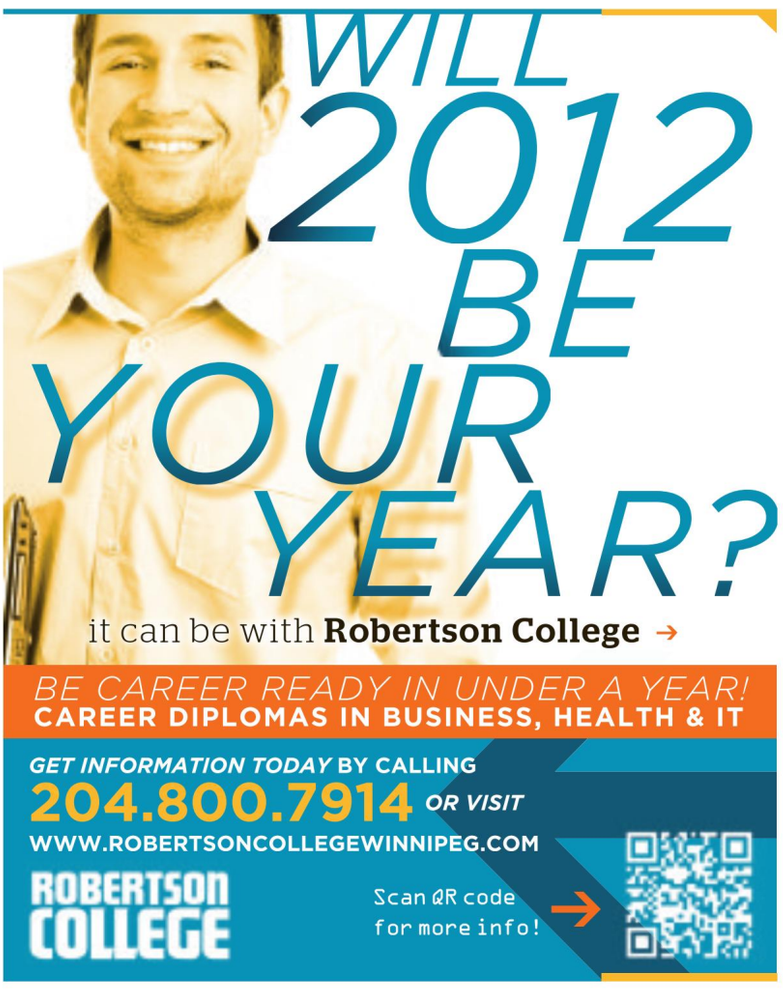
- 1 can (540 mL/19 oz) cooked diced potatoes, drained well
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 2 tsp (10 mL) dried parsley leaves
- 1 tsp (5 mL) dried thyme
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) cayenne
- 1 can (398 mL/14 oz) creamed corn
- 1 can (370 mL) 2% evaporated milk
- 1 can (284 mL/10 oz) vegetable broth
- 1 ¼ cups (300 mL) water

▶ Makes six 1 cup (250 mL) servings.

Preparation:

1. In large soup pot, using potato masher, mash potatoes with garlic, parsley, thyme and cayenne until fairly smooth. Add creamed corn, milk, broth and water and bring to a gentle boil. Simmer for about 15 minutes to let flavours come together.

EMILY RICHARDS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Travel to the ends of the earth

- If the world is (hypothetically) coming to an end, shouldn't you see more of it first?
- Canada has spectacular locations everyone should visit — whether the world is ending or not

SEAN MCKIBBON
METRO OTTAWA

Pangnirtung, Nunavut
A place where Scottish whalers would stop and trade with the Inuit, the Hudson's Bay company set up a trading post there in 1921. Renowned for its printmaking and natural beauty, you can visit with locals and learn about traditional Inuit life. If anyone knows how to survive what looks like inhospitable conditions, it's them. Learn to hunt, tan your own furs and navigate where a compass won't work.

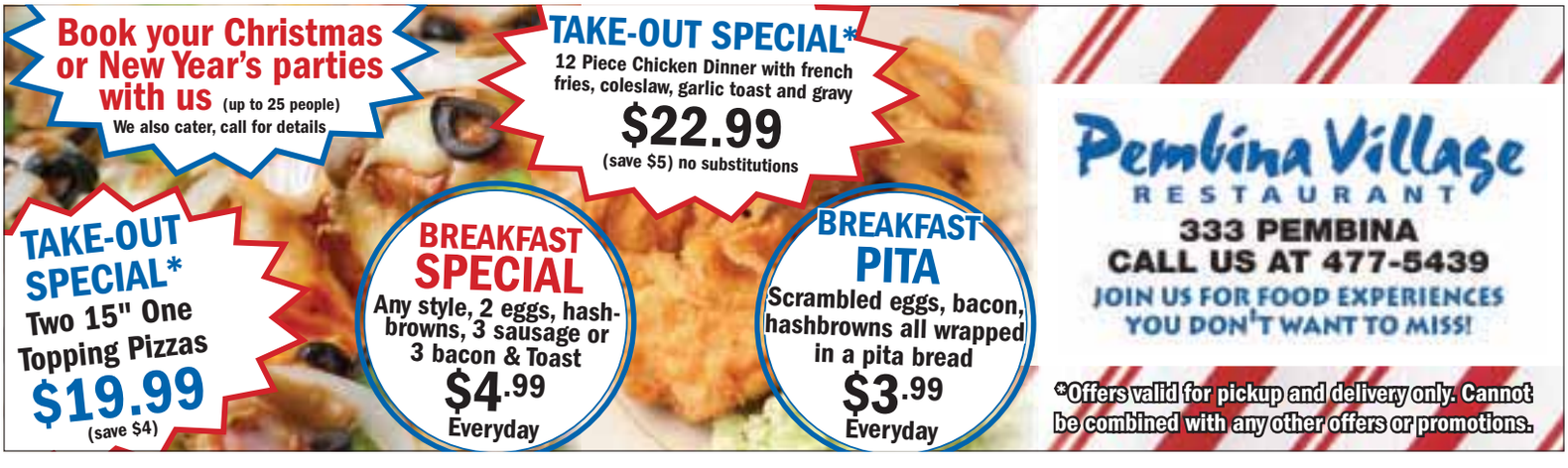
Sirmilik National Park, Bylot Island, Nunavut
The top of Canada is arid, dry and spectacular — and home to thousands of birds, a mountain that looks vaguely like a pyramid and a vast blasted landscape that you might have to get used to on the rest of the planet if the Mayans are right. Go in the summer when the day lasts 24 hours and make the most of the time you've got left.

Nahanni River, Northwest Territories
Sometimes billed as "trophy river" for canoeists and whitewater rafting adventurers, the Nahani will test you. Caribou, rushing rapids, rugged forest, grizzly bears — but what are you scared of? The world is ending, right? You want to learn to survive or what?

ISTOCK IMAGES

Clayoquot Sound, Vancouver Island, British Columbia
In the 1990s this was the Ragnarok of the Canadian environmental movement, when foresters and tree huggers clashed. Now it's an eco-tourism spot. If it doesn't fall into the ocean when the big one hits, maybe this lush jewel will be a small oasis of life. Who knows? Maybe you can score some B.C. bud and sail through Armageddon stoned.

Confederation Bridge, Prince Edward Island
Nothing says the edge of Canada like a giant bridge stretching across the ocean. Sure, P.E.I. with its Anne of Green Gables stories and resort cabins doesn't seem remote; it's all rather quaint. But if aliens attack Canada Hollywood-movie style, Confederation Bridge is definitely going to be on their list of targets and that will be something to see.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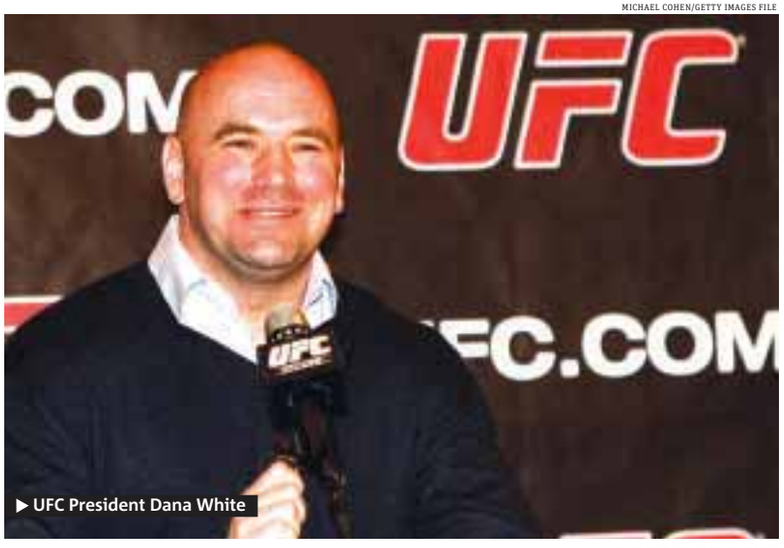
A brave new sporting world

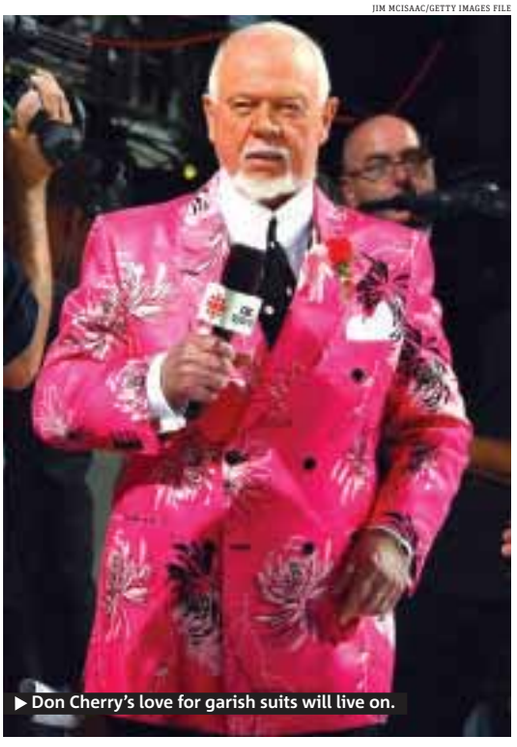
If we're not all reduced to rubble, we could see sports get a whole lot wackier beyond 2012

MICHAEL COHEN/GETTY IMAGES FILE



▶ UFC President Dana White

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES FILE



▶ Don Cherry's love for garish suits will live on.

Ask anyone from a previous generation and they'll surely enlighten you as to how "sports ain't what they used to be." Until the end of 2012 those were just the crowings of the bewildered and beleaguered. Fans of the future, know *they* will have a valid claim…

2037: With ratings on the decline due to the influx of violent and gambling reality shows ("Monkey Knife Fight"; "Trillion Dollar Deficit Coin-Flip"; "Casino vs. Robosaurus"; "Who Has The Toughest Automatic Dishwasher…Literally?"), the now-completely hairless UFC president Dana White melds Mixed Martial Arts with Texas Hold 'Em: As Real A Semi-Bluff As It Gets!

2049: After locking out its players for a combined 15th time this century, many NBA and NFL players head back to college to finish their degrees (and to take advantage of the fact the NCAA is now paying its "amateur" athletes upwards of $2 million a semester, along with all-you-can-sit tattoos). The pros arrive to find the March Madness tournament has ballooned to 16,388 schools (14 rounds plus two play-in games) and begins the previous June. Football still rebuffs a playoff system, making all but one of the 78 bowls utterly inane. (Though the Visa Halftime Show sponsored by Doritos at the Meineke Car Care Bowl presented by Fannie Mae would have been great if it wasn't for all the commercials.)

FRANK MICELOTTA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Thumb wars will be the sports battlefields of the future.

2062: Pogs!

2087: Proving Darwin's theory correct, decades of relentless texting has led to the thumb being the strongest appendage on most humans. What started with Pro Thumb Wrestling ("It's totally fake!") evolves into the Thumb Olympics. Events include synchronized scrolling and the modern phalangeathalon. Most contestants aren't very polished.

2112: In an ongoing effort to reduce concussions, the NHL, which at last count had expanded to 78 teams, finally arrives at a "solution" to head shots by boiling the game down to a 99-shot per team shootout (with the provisos that no player can skate beyond the hashmarks for fear of running into the goalie and any shot above the waist results in a lifetime ban.) Coaches give themselves concussions from shaking their heads. Don Cherry's ghost, drawn back from the abyss every Saturday night with the promise of a new garish suit, calls Gary Bettman IV a joke. Of course, fighting is still allowed … how else to keep up with Ultimate Poker?

EDWARD FRASER/FOR METRO

4 sports

Sports in brief

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Where do we go from here?

Metro guest columnist Greg Downs looks at the evolution and future of athletic culture

ABELIMAGES/GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Ashtone Morgan, centre, waves to Toronto FC fans at BMO field in Toronto last October.

Equality in dressing rooms: If the world of sports is the last mainstream closet, then the next 50 years will open doors.

There is a short history of openly gay athletes, mainly because of the stigma athletes who come out face.

However the mentality is set to change in locker rooms and front offices around North America.

The NFL, largely considered to be the toughest arena to be a gay athlete, wrote legislation into the new collective bargaining agreement, barring any discrimination based on sexual orientation.

It's a sign of things to come when high-profile, truculent personalities such as Brian Burke voice their concerns and walk in the Gay Pride Parade.

New national sport: Canada's national sport will be forced to take a back seat as concussions, and changing population push soccer to the forefront of the Canadian sporting landscape.

According to Stats Canada by 2031 as much as 28 per cent of the population will be of foreign birth, bringing the world's most popular game with them.

Toronto FC and the Vancouver Whitecaps are already among the MLS leaders in attendance and Canada's third franchise, the Montreal Impact, will join this summer.

As concussion information develops, and head injuries become more prevalent in contact sports, soccer will become the safer alternative.

International Hockey League: With many NBA, and NHL markets struggling to keep up with the growing player salary demands, lure of foreign markets will spawn international leagues.

"As concussion information develops, and head injuries become more prevalent in contact sports, soccer will become the safer alternative."

The money has already been proven to exist.

In 2010 SKA Saint Petersburg offered Ilya Kovalchuk the same $100 million deal as the one he signed with the New Jersey Devils, a sum many NHL clubs couldn't afford.

NBA player Deron Williams, like many pro basketball players, signed a big deal overseas (one-year, $5 million) during the recent lockout.

His number was even retired after just 15 games.

Pay to play: In the next half century college and university athletes will lose their amateur status.

While organizations like the NCAA have fought and fined to keep players from making money, the pressure on big schools to recruit will force the league to adapt.

There's just too much money on the line. Both BCS championship teams, LSU and Alabama will receive $18 million for playing the biggest college game of the season.

Many schools and boosters have already shown the willingness to throw large sums of cash at high school players and it will be impossible for the NCAA to stop it.

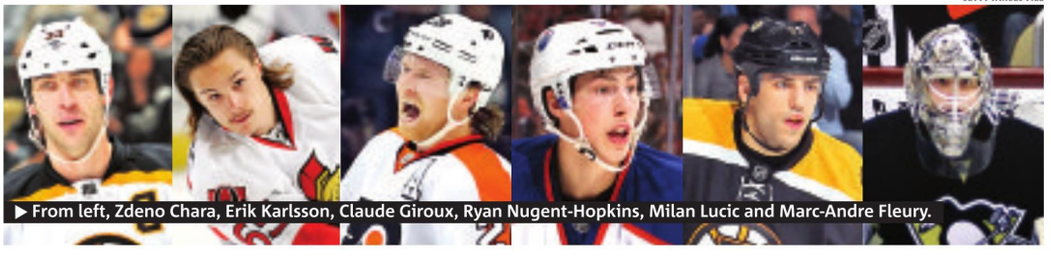
Front court — Front office: Elite athletes will elevate from highly paid stars, to player/owners as teams attempt to lure them to their city.

Owners routinely hand over power of their teams to stars, and based on current contracts, ownership is next. Albert Pujols was handed a $252 million contract this month by the L.A. Angels. It's a deal worth more than the amount owner Art Moreno paid for the team ($181 million in 2003). Alexander Ovechkin's 13 year $124 million deal is only $10 million shy of Forbes' estimated worth of the Phoenix Coyotes franchise. ● GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO

Frontline NHLers for the future

JIM REYNO
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN LONDON, ONT.

GETTY IMAGES FILE



▶ From left, Zdeno Chara, Erik Karlsson, Claude Giroux, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Milan Lucic and Marc-Andre Fleury.

My starting six NHLers to take into the new world are based on a number of factors: Statistics, age, leadership, and what I call "winningness" — a combination of toughness, heart and ability to hoist Lord Stanley's cup.

Centre — In the absence of a healthy Sidney Crosby, I like Ryan Nugent-Hopkins. Not much of a track record in the NHL, but he's off to a great start in Edmonton and he carries himself like a veteran. Pretty impressive 18-year-old guy, on and off the ice.

Left wing — Milan Lucic. I don't care if he's dead last in the league in scoring and minus a million in the regular season — when it's crunch time, he crunches. Lucic is the quintessential power-forward. Fearless and intimidating at six-foot-four and 220 pounds, this 23-year-old would create space up front for Nugent-Hopkins and this next guy.

Right wing — Claude Giroux. This 23-year-old has improved every season in the NHL. He's quick, a heady passer, and still has a sniper's eye for the net. And although he hasn't won a cup yet, he's clutch: Giroux is among the league leaders in game-winning goals — not to mention points. Hopefully, we'll see Sid and Claude concussion free soon — lighting it up for Canada on the same line at the next Olympics.

Defence — Zdeno Chara. Massive, in every sense of the word. Everyone knows about his booming slapshot and mean streak, but at six-foot-nine and 255 pounds, he covers half of the defensive zone just by standing there. Yes he's 34, but if Tony Bennett can have a No. 1 album at age 85, I can have Chara on my blue-line for a few years in the new world.

Defence — Erik Karlsson. With Big Z doing the heavy-lifting defensively, the slick-passing, smooth-skating Karlsson would be free to roam. My transition game wouldn't stall with this guy: Karlsson moves the puck quickly and effectively. This 21-year-old Swede will be quarterbacking the Senators power play for years to come.

Goal — Tough one. Among the goaltending leaders, I either see guys approaching the end of their careers or guys who haven't proven it over the long haul. Maybe Marc-Andre Fleury? Hitting his prime at age 27, already won a cup ... yeah, I'll go with Flower.

3 SPORTS SIGNS OF APOCALYPSE

GIVING BACK

▶ Professional athletes realize just how overpaid they actually are and decide en masse to take a 50 per cent pay cut, which in turn sees ticket prices cut in half allowing middle class families to again cheer on home teams at arenas.

DROUGHT ENDS

▶ Toronto's famed Yonge Street is lined for miles with cheering fans as the city's beloved Maple Leafs do the unthinkable and win the Stanley Cup.

CFL OPENS A CAN

▶ The Canadian Football League, in an attempt to boost sluggish TV ratings and ticket sales, decides to have a one-round MMA fight between opposing players to determine who gets first possession in games. ● PHILIP CROUCHER

Mayan Calendar Puzzle

Many are dreading 2012, as it supposedly means dark days are ahead as foretold by the Mayan calendar. Wrong! The truth is, it's just the end of a cycle of the Mayan calendar. To the Mayans, that was a time to celebrate. So, 2012 is more like a brand new day rather than an end of days. 2012 is going to be just fine.

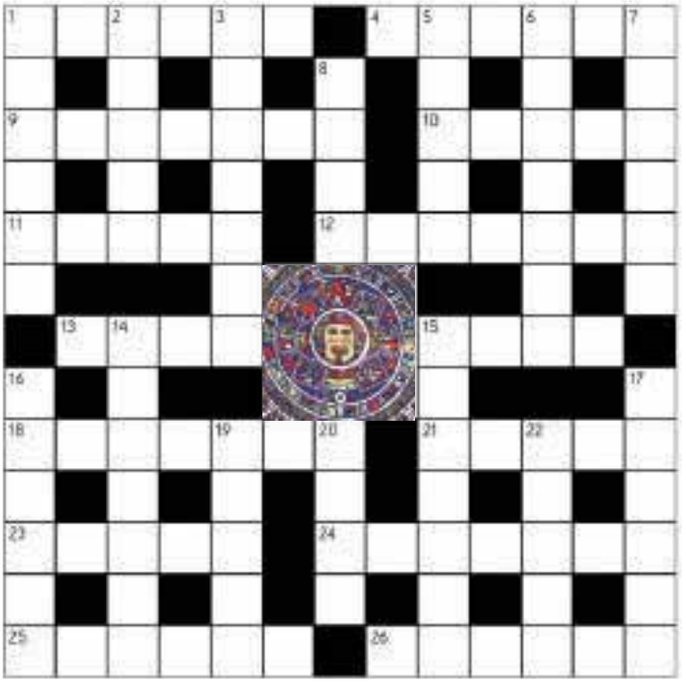
LARRY HUMBER

Across

1 The Mayan Calendar is known as the Maya ___ Round (a word meaning holy)
4 The Maya had ___ day names, nearly three times as many as we have
9 McHattie of Immortals and the disaster film 2012
10 What the Maya called day 19; it means rain storm (it's also a kind of canoe if you change the middle letter)
11 If things go as some say in 2012, we'll be needing more than ___ salts to cure our ills
12 Predominantly Muslim nation in West Africa
13 A New Testament book
15 Scarlett O'Hara's home
18 Shake violently
21 Basketball's "Shaq"
23 Information fed into a computer
24 Adopts: 2 wds.
25 John ___ played writer Jackson Curtis in 2012
26 ___ & Demons was a Dan Brown book and later a film starring Tom Hanks

Down

1 In the film 2012, Lilly is the ___ of Noah (they're Curtis's kids)
2 Maia Chiburdanidze was women's world ___ champ
3 Digs up or brings to light
5 Rouse from sleep
6 One who's into astrology, say: 2 wds.
7 Country folk
8 Terminates
14 The Mayan calendar is used to this day in this part of Mexico (it's an anagram of APHASIC)
15 The Mayan calendar is known to scholars as the ___ (the answer is close in spelling to The Lord of the Rings author)
16 Crazy person
17 Symbolic figures as found in the Mayan calendar
19 The ___ calendar was an adaptation of the Mayan
20 Erodes, ___ away
22 Come as a result



Solution

ACROSS
1. SACRED, 4. TWENTY, 9. STEPHEN, 10. KAWAK, 11. EPSOM, 12. SENEGAL, 13. ACTS, 15. TARA, 18. AGITATE, 21. O'NEAL, 23. INPUT, 24. TAKES UP, 25. CUSACK and 26. ANGELS

DOWN
1. SISTER, 2. CHESS, 3. EXHUMES, 5. WAKEN, 6. NEW AGER, 7. YOKELS, 8. ENDS, 14. CHIAPAS, 15. TZOLKIN, 16. MANIAC, 17. GLYPHS, 19. AZTEC, 20. EATS and 22. ENSUE

NOTE: The solutions for the Dec. 24th crossword and Sudoku will appear in the Jan. 3 issue of Metro. If you can't wait until then, go to metronews.ca for the answers.

Numerology

Numerology offers a personality and lifestyle profile that can help unlock the mysteries of the past, present and future. Numbers help predict outcomes — so you can enhance relationships, career and overall living!

Number One

Celebrate: You will inspire people willing to hear your point of view. Not only will they be impressed with your vision, but they will tell others about you.
Watch out for: Not just one, but many people will confront you with matters of the heart. If you are not interested, then be honest.

Number Two

Celebrate: Aggressive folks who have rattled your chain in the past will ask you for forgiveness. Your career will pick up tenfold, so be ready to take on new responsibilities and exciting experiences.
Watch out for: Try not to push things. If it does not fit, do not force it. Relax and let things go.

Number Three

Celebrate: You have done things for people that others would not think of doing. This year coworkers, friends and family will show their gratitude for your kindness.
Watch out for: Your loyalty will be questioned two times in 2012; however, as long as you remain calm and cool, your maturity will shine through.

Number Four

Celebrate : Folks will come to you throughout the year. They will use you as a distraction from their woes. Do not shun them. Make money from it, or least earn good karma.
Watch out for: All will be merry for the first part of the year, but in mid-2012 you need to be watchful of people who say they love you, but hurt you most.

Number Five

Celebrate: Your creative side will bubble over in 2012. Business, career, love and spiritual ideas you have been putting off will now ignite and you will soar to new heights.
Watch out for: People with good intentions will try to persuade you not to take a chance. Hear their advice, but ultimately listen to your heart and go with your intuition.

How it works

- It starts with your birth date — month, day, year.
- Break down your numbers to a single digit.
- For example, say you were born on Dec. 20, 1971. December is the 12th month, so break the month down: 1+2 = 3
- The 20th day — break it down: 2+0 = 2
- The year 1971 — break it down: 1+9+7+1 = 18. Break it down again to a single digit: 1+8 = 9
- Now add up all three final numbers: 3+2+9 = 14
- Break 14 down and your final answer is 1+4 = 5
- You are a number 5

Number Six

Celebrate: In 2012 smiling and laughing will have more of an affect on your life than you could ever imagine. Folks may test you many times and in many ways, but you will pass them all.
Watch out for: Taking things personally will only cause stress. When others try to dish discomfort, deflect it by saying to yourself: "I am peaceful, and peace is with me."

Number Seven

Celebrate: Say what is on your mind, and do not hesitate to do what you feel. As long as it does not hurt anybody, do as you like and live how you want.
Watch out for: Acquaintances may judge you incorrectly. But do not worry, because in the first quarter of 2012 they will learn to appreciate your character and cherish your friendship.

Number Eight

Celebrate: Somebody between the ages of 21 and 35 will praise your name, and if they do this at work, your income will increase sooner rather than later.
Watch out for: Do not answer any questions that will turn into deeper questions. Getting into the nitty gritty of things is not necessary.

Number Nine

Celebrate: If somebody owes you money, you can look forward to getting some of it back, and just when you need it most.
Watch out for: Focus on your health, especially if you do not have the best of health right now.

A SYNDICATED ASTROLOGIST, CERISE FAIRFAX IS PUBLISHED IN VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS AND ONLINE COMMUNITIES. SHE IS ALSO A LIFE COACH COUNSELOR. CHECK HER OUT AT CERISEFAIRFAX.COM

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